

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-30 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 17 are independent. Claims 1-17 and 20-23 have been amended.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figs. 4 and 6 as lacking proper cross hatching.

Submitted herewith are replacement sheets for the drawing figures of record. Cross hatching has been added to Figs. 4-7. Further, an informality has been corrected in Fig. 3 and in Figs. 5-7. A specific explanation of the drawings changes can be found in the Amendments section of this Response. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been included in the drawing corrections.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Object to the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract for certain informalities. Applicants submit herewith a substitute Abstract which addresses the Examiner's noted informalities. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Object to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification for an informality in the heading "Detailed Description." Applicants have amended this heading. Further, Applicants have corrected a grammatical informality in the first paragraph of page 6.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cites numerous instances of allegedly indefinite language in the pending claims. Applicants have reviewed all of the pending claims, and made several revisions to address the Examiner's alleged indefinite language. It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in full accord with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 11-19, 22-25 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neveux, Jr. in view of Haugwitz. Claims 1, 9-10, 17, 20-21 and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neveux, Jr. in view of Roberts. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Both rejections rely on Neveux, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 6,506,976. This patent was filed on September 14, 1999 and issued on January 14, 2003.

It appears that this application was not published. Therefore, the first publication of this reference took place on January 14, 2003, after the U.S. filing date of the present application on January 2, 2002. Therefore, the reference could only qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e), (f), or (g). It should be noted that the Neveux, Jr. reference shares common ownership with the present application. Both applications were, and are, presently assigned to Avaya Technology Corp., Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

Under the dictates of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Neveux, Jr. does not qualify as prior art to the present application. Therefore, these rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

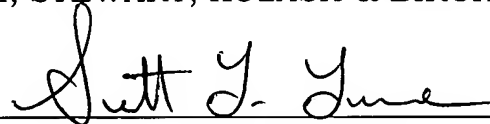
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. Scott L. Lowe (Reg. No. 41,458) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1602 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Scott L. Lowe, #41,458

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SLL:lmh

Attachment: Two (2) Replacement Sheets
Two (2) Annotated Sheets
Abstract

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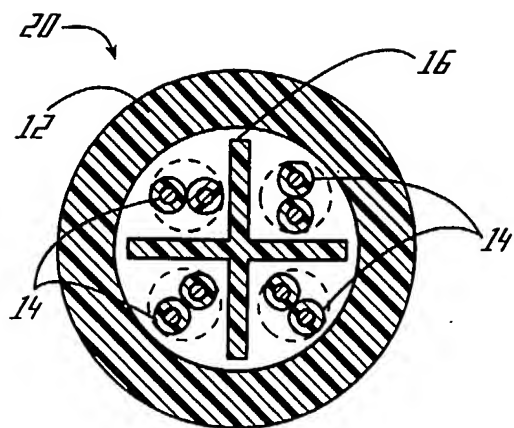


Fig. 1
(PRIOR ART)

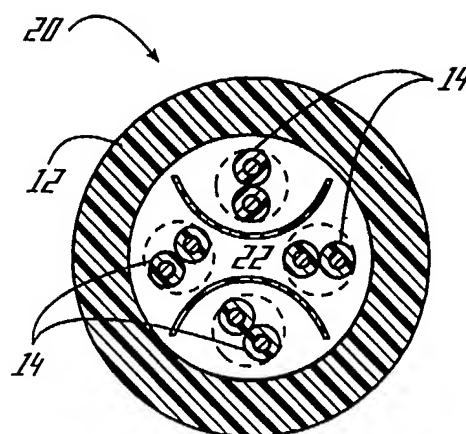


Fig. 2
(PRIOR ART)

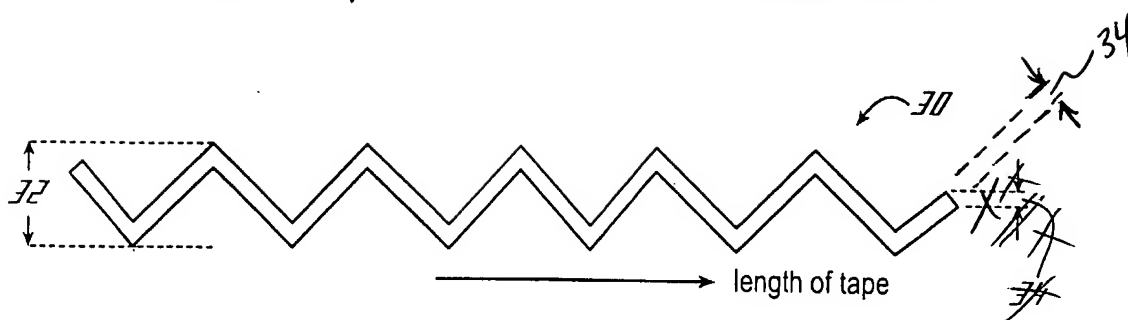


Fig. 3

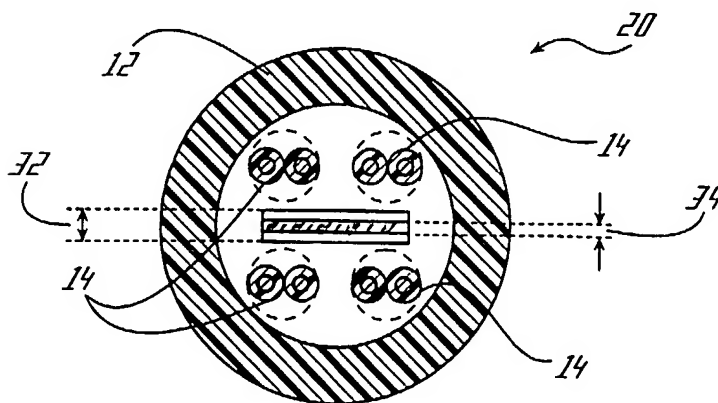


Fig. 4

